

TO ~~THE~~ MAYOR AND CORPORATION, BOROUGH OF LOSTWITHIEL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith have the honour to present my Annual report for the year 1934.

### SECTION A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area ..... 3050 acres  
 Population ..... 1802  
 Number of inhabited houses .... 630  
 Rateable value ..... £7687  
 Sum represented by Id rate ... £32 0 7.

Socially I think that the area is quite well catered for but it is to be regretted that the available public halls are far from suitable to accommodate a large number of people for any length of time from the hygienic point of view. This particularly applied to winter gatherings of children and I would again ask those who are responsible for these to consider whether they would not be doing the younger members of the community a greater service and kindness by arranging for their entertainment during the summer months when they might be held out of doors. The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the area are commercial and agricultural.

During the year there have been temporary periods of alleviation of unemployment but there is little if any, permanent diminution. It is to be regretted that this area has not shown itself so mindful of the unemployed class as many others in the county have done and I submit that this is, in a large measure, due to the want of a lead from the local Authority. We are apt to forget that, unless something very unforeseen arises, unemployment to a large extent is going to be permanent. It seems a pity that while such organisations as the National Council of Social Service and the County Social Service Committee exist solely to assist local effort by advice and grants of money no advantage of such is taken in this area. I commend this matter for your sympathetic consideration.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Live Births	(Legitimate ... 19	11	8	Birth rate per 1,000 of population ..... 11.09
	(Illegitimate ... 1	1		
	(Legitimate ... 1		1	
<u>Stillbirths</u>				
Deaths	19	7	1	Crude Death Rate per 1000 of population ..... 10.5
				C.F. Death Rate ..... 7.5
<u>Deaths from Puerperal causes</u>				Nil
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year</u>				Nil

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea.

The Birth and Death Rates per 1000 of population for England and Wales were 14.8 and 11.8 respectively.

The local Birth and Death Rates per 1000 of population for the Year 1933 were 20.75 and 17.7 respectively.

#### Causes of Death:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1
Cancer	2	3



VITAL STATISTICS.  
continued.

	M	F
Diabetes .....	-	I
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	-	I
Heart Disease .....	3	I
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	I	I
Bronchitis .....	-	I
Appendicitis .....	-	I
Diseases of the liver etc.....	-	I
Digestive Diseases .....	-	I
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	I	-

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(I) Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Sanitary Inspector who is a Certificated Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There have been no developments or changes in the following services:- Ambulance facilities, Nursing in the home, Clinics and Treatment Centres and Hospitals.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:-

I. (I) Water :- The quality of the old Borough supply leaves nothing to be desired. The unusually low rainfall of last year however may result in the domestic supply running short if care is not taken to prevent waste.

The supply to the Bridgend district the source of which is different from the above, was the subject of a special report made by me on 1st May. As a result cleaning and certain temporary repairs were done and later it was decided to obtain the advice of a water engineer with a view to reorganising the supply which is an ample one. The decision to obtain the opinion of a water engineer was made on the 18th February and, as far as I am aware no definite action has been taken as a result of it. As this is a matter of some urgency I would suggest that it should be expedited.

The supply of water to those parts of the area which are outside the piped supply from the above two sources comes chiefly from springs, the water being piped to the houses. In seven instances the supply is obtained from wells fitted with pumps or buckets. There are only four houses the supply to which is not sufficiently accessible. Taken as a whole the area is well supplied with water.

(II) Drainage and Sewerage: With the exception of sewers for the accommodation of new houses there has been no extension of sewerage. The sewage of the whole of the Borough within the sewage area finds its way into the river approximate to the town. The undesirability of this arrangement has long been recognised and it should be a matter for consideration as to how much longer it is to be allowed to continue.

2. Rivers and Streams:- Apart from the pollution of the river mentioned above, that from slaughterhouse offal still continues. This easily preventable nuisance has been a matter for complaint for years and as those responsible for it would appear to have no regard for the feelings of others or for the amenities of their own town, I submit that the Council should take steps to enforce the abatement of the nuisance.

3.(i) Closet accommodation:- Progress has continued during the year towards improvement of the closet accommodation in the area. This has materialised in spite of a certain amount of opposition. I regret to say, from some members of the Council. I am not responsible for the provisions of the various Public Health Acts and Regulations but as your Medical Officer it is my duty to advise you





when, in my opinion, they should be enforced. It is a one-sided policy to insist on flushing cisterns being included in the specification for new houses and to withhold similar treatment in the case of old houses, provided always of course that they are not in such a state of disrepair as to be in other respects not fit for human habitation. It seems necessary to remind you that, if an owner is aggrieved by the Order of a Local Authority he has the right of appeal to a higher authority and I submit it should be as a result of such an appeal that opposition to this very essential reform should arise. I should like in this connection to record my appreciation of the public-spirited manner in which many owners have willingly fitted flushing cisterns in response to the request of your sanitary officials without reference to the Council.

(ii). Public Cleansing: I have frequently brought to your notice the very primitive and insanitary nature of the existing refuse cart and again take this opportunity to recommend this matter for your early consideration.

(iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area:- The Sanitary Inspector's report is as follows:-

(a) Number and nature of inspections made :-

Dairies, milkshops and cowsheds	64
Bakehouses	2
Slaughterhouses	44

(b) Number of Notices served:-

Statutory	Nil
Informal	13
Notices complied with	13

(c) Number of premises fumigated	3
Number of drains tested	9

During the year I have inspected 115 dwellinghouses in the area for which purpose 25 tours of inspection were made. I have also made inspections of cowsheds, dairies, milkshops, foot shops and slaughterhouses.

(iv) Smoke abatement:- No action under this heading has been taken. I again commend for your consideration an addition to the existing Byelaws whereby the catching alight of the chimney of a dwellinghouse should be made a penal offence.

4. Schools:- The sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory. It has not been necessary to take any action in relation to the health of the scholars or for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

#### SECTION D

##### I. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	138
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	203

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... ..	115
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	175

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
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(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in	
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all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... I8

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... .. I3

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (a) Proceedings under sections I7 I8 and 23 of the Housing Act I930.
- (I) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... .. nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. nil
- (c) Proceedings under section I9 and 2I of the Housing Act, I930
- (i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. I
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ,... 1.. nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act I930.
- (I) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. nil

During the year six new working class dwellinghouses have been completed by the Local Authority which has made it possible to demolish three very undesirable cottages. It is questionable in my opinion, whether it would not have been better to have had each house a little more roomy and to have erected four instead of six. There is the danger of such small houses eventually becoming overcrowded if, or when families increase. It is satisfactory to be able to report that, owing to private enterprise, four more extremely undesirable cottages have been demolished to make room for more modern dwellings. I venture to hope that this is only the commencement of a clean sweep of all undesirable houses in the area.

SECTION E.

Inspection and supervision of Food.

(a). Milk Supply: Periodically the milk supplied by all the retailers in the area (of whom there are sixteen) has been subjected to Thomson's Sedimentation Test, the results showing, with very few exceptions a high degree of cleanliness. Ten samples were tested for Tubercle bacilli, all of them being negative. The results of all these tests show that the standard of the milk retailed in the area is of a high order and that the retailers are making more effort to produce a cleaner milk supply. At the same time I would hesitate to say that it had attained perfection. With such a good supply of milk in the area I would commend its greater use as a food and beverage. Were its merits as such more appreciated, both by rich and poor alike, it might take the place of trashy and more expensive but far less nourishing food stuffs. I am pleased to be able to report that owing to the enterprise of one retailer Pasteurised milk is now being retailed in the area.

(b) Meat and other Foods:- No special action has been found necessary as the result of periodic inspection of meat,





slaughterhouses, shops and places where food is prepared.

(c) Adulteration;- No action has been necessary under this heading.

#### SECTION F.

#### Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

During the months of September and October there was a slight epidemic of Scarlet Fever of a very mild type. There was practically no Influenza during the year under review. No action has been taken to provide artificial immunization against Diphtheria.

#### Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year.

Disease	Number notified	Admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	13	nil	Nil
Diphtheria	2	Nil	Nil

Cancer:- There has been no undue increase in the incidence of this disease in the area. I should like to remind those suffering from the disease that Radium treatment is available free of charge in necessitous cases. Since the formation of the National Radium Centres during 1933 no cancer cases in this area have availed themselves of this offer.

Tuberculosis:- There has been only one new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, a male aged 55. The number of cases on the register is:- Respiratory, 3 Males and 2 Females Non-respiratory 1 male.

Other Sanitary matters:- On the first of April as part of a general reshuffle within the county the area of this Borough was increased by about 2,000 acres. With the exception of the Bridgend district this consists almost entirely of arable and pasture land and is very sparsely populated. On the whole the standards of the dwellinghouses in the added area is good but I am unable to say the same of the sanitation. There is much to be done from the sanitary point of view to bring the added area in line with modern requirements.

Presented to the Council  
4th June, 1935.

signed Fredk.H. Rudge,  
Medical Officer of Health.

